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BOROUGH OF HASLINGDEN



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

AND

**Chief Public Health Inspector**

**1961**



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# HEALTH COMMITTEE

THE WORSHIP THE MAYOR  
ALDERMAN J. WALSH J.P. (To May 1961)  
COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS. G.M. WARBURTON J.P. (From May 1961)

ALDERMAN J.W. HOLGATE (CHAIRMAN)  
COUNCILLOR F.GREENWOOD (VICE-CHAIRMAN)

Alderman W. J. Everett	Councillor S. Gibbons ♦
Alderman A. S. Watson, J.P.	Councillor J. W. Holgate *
Councillor W. B. Fisher, J.P.	Councillor F. Mitchell *
Councillor S. A. J. Ogden	Councillor D. H. Valentine *
Councillor W. C. Willis	Councillor Mrs. M. Walsh *
Councillor H. Sanderson ♦	Councillor J. T. Wood x

Alderman T.B. Hargreaves - Died March 1961

♦ Member of the Committee to May 1961  
\* Member of the Committee from May 1961  
x Member of the Committee from September 1961

## S T A F F

Town Clerk  
L.M. BURTON  
Solicitor

Medical Officer of Health  
C.H.T. WADE, M.D., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.  
Divisional Health Office, Parsons Lane, Bury (Tel. Bury 4025)

Chief Public Health Inspector  
W. DAWSON, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., M.Inst.P.C.

Deputy Public Health Inspector  
D. J. HUNT, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Public Health Clerks

H. Camm (Died Sept., 1961)  
Miss G. C. Laporte

## OFFICES:

Public Health Office, John Street, Haslingden  
Telephone Rossendale 1078

August 1962

To the Mayor and Members of the Haslingden  
Borough Council

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1961, on the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

The Registrar General has estimated the population as 14,330, which shows an increase of 280 from that of 1960. Provisional figures for the 1961 census gives a population of 14,370. This is a decrease of 135 since the census of 1951.

The adjusted\* birth rate was 17.9 and the adjusted death rate 16.1 per 1000 of the population. The corresponding rates for England and Wales were 17.4 and 12.0 respectively. There were five deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an infant mortality rate of 20.8 per 1000 live births, compared with the national rate of 21.4. An average for the previous five years in the Borough, gives a rate of 27.5.

The number of infectious diseases notified during 1961 was 44, as against 212 in 1960. There were 32 cases of measles in 1961 which shows quite a decrease from last year - 187 cases were then notified. For the first time this century no cases of scarlet fever were notified. For the fifteenth year in succession, no cases of diphtheria were reported, and there were no cases of poliomyelitis during the year.

There was one case of food poisoning reported, and one dysentery, both of which were isolated cases.

During 1961, two cases of respiratory tuberculosis - 1 male and 1 female, were notified. There were no deaths from this cause.



The scheme arranged by the County Council for inoculation against poliomyelitis and commenced in 1955, is still being carried on and progressing, as the public are becoming more aware of the importance of this precautionary measure. Further details and figures etc. may be found in the body of this report.

The Department has continued, throughout the year, to endeavour to improve the position with regard to industrial smoke. Over the last few years many improvements have been recorded. A report on the need for the establishment of smoke control areas was presented to the Council early in the year but no decision was made to establish such areas. Figures of the amount of atmospheric pollution recorded by a volumetric analyser at the Health Department, show that there is the usual amount of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the air and that benefit in regard to the former would result if clean air areas were established.

Clearance and demolition of old and unfit houses is also being carried on, and 32 houses were demolished during the year. Fifty-seven new houses were erected during the year, 24 by the Local Council and 33 by private enterprise.

I tender my grateful thanks to the Members of the Council and staff for their continued advice and assistance during the year.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Yours faithfully,

C.H.T. WADE

Medical Officer of Health.

\* Adjusted means corrected to a standard population for the purposes of comparison with other districts.

SECTION ASTATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in acres .. .. .	8,195
Population (census 1961 - Provisional) .. .. .	14,370
Registrar General's estimate of mid-year population for 1960 .	14,330
Number of dwelling houses (census 1951) .. .. .	5,200
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1961, according to Rate Books) .. .. .	5,526
Rateable Value .. .. .	£171,819
Sum represented by a penny rate .. .. .	£686

POPULATION:

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population for 1961 is 14,330, which is more than the 1960 figure of 14,050. The 1961 census population is provisionally 14,370.

LIVE BIRTHS:

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male .. .. .	115	6	121
Female .. .. .	<u>112</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>119</u>
	227	13	240

STILL BIRTHS:

Male .. .. .	2	-	2
Female .. .. .	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>
	4	-	4

Total Registered Births for 1961 ... 244  
Total Registered Births for 1960 ... 211



TOTAL REGISTERED DEATHS:

							Male	Female	Total
For 1961	..	..	..	..	..	..	115	121	236
For 1960	..	..	..	..	..	..	105	89	194

TOTAL DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR:

							Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
For 1961									
Male	..	..	..	..	..		4	-	4
Female	..	..	..	..	..		<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
							5	-	5
For 1960									
Male	..	..	..	..	..		4	-	4
Female	..	..	..	..	..		<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
							6	1	7

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE:

							Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
For 1961									
Male	..	..	..	..	..		4	-	4
Female	..	..	..	..	..		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
							4	-	4
For 1960									
Male	..	..	..	..	..		4	-	4
Female	..	..	..	..	..		<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
							5	-	5

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE WEEK OF AGE:

							Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
For 1961									
Males	..	..	..	..	..		4	-	4
Female	..	..	..	..	..		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
							4	-	4
For 1960									
Male	..	..	..	..	..		1	-	1
Female	..	..	..	..	..		<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
							2	-	2

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL BIRTHS: For 1961 - 32.8  
 (which consists of infants deaths during first week of life plus still births).

There were five deaths of infants under one year of age, four of which occurred in the first week of life.

A list of the ages and sex, and the causes of death of the five infants, is appended herewith.

TABLE I

SEX	AGE	CAUSE OF DEATH	PLACE OF DEATH
Female	4 months	1a. Acute Broncho Pneumonia	Home
Male	2 days	1a. Cerebral Haemorrhage 2 Prematurity	Hospital
Male	17 hours	1a. Prematurity. Atelectasis of lungs	Hospital
Male	5 hours	1a. Prematurity. Atelectasis of lungs	Hospital
Male	4 hours	1a. Prematurity. Atelectasis of lungs	Hospital

TABLE II

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality				Pulmonary Tuberculosis	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	Total	No.	Rate	Neo-Natal	No.	Rate
Year 1961	240	16.7*	236	16.5*	4	16.4	Nil	Nil	5	20.8	4	16.7	Nil	Nil
Year 1960	206	14.7	194	13.8	5	23.7	Nil	Nil	7	34.0	5	24.3	1	0.07
Year 1959	206	14.6	204	14.5	4	19.0	1	4.76	8	38.8	6	29.1	2	0.14
Year 1958	203	14.4	233	16.5	4	19.3	Nil	Nil	3	14.8	3	14.8	Nil	Nil
Year 1957	211	14.9	209	14.7	6	28	Nil	Nil	4	19	3	14	3	0.21
Year 1956	228	16.0	219	15.4	3	13	Nil	Nil	7	31	5	22	2	0.14
Average 5 year 1956-1960	--	14.9	--	15.0	--	20.6	--	0.9	--	27.5	--	20.8	--	0.11

\* Adjusted - Live Birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.07) = 17.9 per 1,000  
 Death-rate (comparability factor, 0.98) = 16.1 per 1,000

There was an increase of 42 in the number of deaths in 1961 from 194 to 236. Heart disease was responsible for the greatest number of deaths, 103 being attributed to this cause in 1961 as against 75 in 1960, showing an increase of 28 deaths.

There were 5 deaths from lung cancer, all males. In 1960 there were 7 deaths, 6 males and 1 female.

Details of the principal causes of death during 1961, are given in Table III below.

TABLE III  
PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1961

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Number of Deaths</u>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system .. .. .	-
Tuberculosis - other forms . . . . .	-
Syphilitic diseases .. .. .	-
Diphtheria .. .. .	-
Whooping Cough .. .. .	-
Meningococcal Infections .. .. .	-
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	-
Measles .. .. .	-
Other infective and parasitic disease .. .. .	1
Cancer, malignant disease, all forms . . . . .	30
Leukaemia .. .. .	1
Diabetes .. .. .	2
Vascular lesions of the nervous system .. .. .	33
Heart Disease .. .. .	103
Other circulatory disease .. .. .	14
Influenza .. .. .	1
Pneumonia .. .. .	6
Bronchitis .. .. .	10
Other diseases of the respiratory system .. .. .	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. .. .	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. .. .	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis .. .. .	1
Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion . . . . .	-
Congenital malformations .. .. .	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. .	17
Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	3
All other accidents .. .. .	5
Suicide .. .. .	3
Homicide and operations of war .. .. .	-
	<hr/> 236 <hr/>

SECTION BGENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Under the National Health Service Act the County Council is responsible for the health services under that Act.

The following matters are the responsibility of the Borough Council:-

Inspection of houses with regard to fitness for human habitation; provision of suitable water supplies; control of cleansing and disposal of refuse; inspection of all food and food-preparing premises; sampling of foodstuffs (milk, ice-cream, etc.) for bacteriological examination; the control of infectious disease; sanitary accommodation to houses, factories, shops and other premises; nuisances and defects; rodent control; offensive trades; smoke abatement; and many other matters concerned with environmental health.

The examination of pathological specimens and milk and water samples, is undertaken without charge, by the Public Health Laboratory at Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

Hospital facilities are now under the Regional Board and Management Committees and patients are admitted without regard to local boundaries.

Ambulance, District Nursing, Midwifery and Maternity and Child Welfare Services are provided by the County Council and administered under the Divisional Health Service Scheme.



SECTION C

PREVALANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASE:

Cases of Infectious Disease are treated without charge at the infectious disease hospital, and similarly pathological examinations are made without charge at the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

The National Health Service Act requires that copies of all notifications of infectious diseases must be forwarded without delay to the County Medical Officer. In practice these notifications are sent to the Divisional Medical Officer, so that he may correlate action within the health division and to enable the Divisional Committee to gain a regular knowledge of the incidence of infectious disease throughout their area.

Diphtheria immunisation is now the responsibility of the County Council but close co-operation between the Borough Council and the County Council is maintained particularly for propaganda purposes. During the year, 185 children under five years of age were immunised and 38 between the ages of five and fourteen.

In addition to the above, 394 children received a reinforcement injection during 1961.

TABLE IV

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO HAD COMPLETED A COURSE  
OF PRIMARY IMMUNISATION AT ANY TIME UP TO 31/12/61

Age at 31/12/61 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1961	1-4 1957-1960	5-9 1952-1956	10-14 1947-1951	Total under 15
Number Immunised	80	666	855	875	2476

TABLE V

## POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO COMPLETED VACCINATION  
AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS IN 1961

YEAR OF BIRTH	COMPLETED VACCINATION
1932 or earlier	279
1933 - 1942	100
1943 - 1946	28
1947 - 1951	66
1952 - 1956	63
1957	14
1958	13
1959	35
1960	127
1961	13

In addition 1,317 persons received reinforcement injections  
in the same period

TABLE VI  
NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)  
RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1961

"Notifiable" Diseases	Total Cases At all ages	Total Cases Notified Years							Total Deaths
		un-der 1	1 & 2	3 & 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 64	65 and over
Whooping Cough .. ..	6	1	2	2	1	-	-	-	-
Measles .. ..	32	2	5	15	10	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas . . . .	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Food Poisoning .. ..	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Dysentery .. ..	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals .. ..	42	3	8	17	11	1	-	2	-

## BACTERIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS:

During the year, 23 bacteriological examinations were made for the presence of Salmonella/Dysentery organisms. One specimen was found to be positive whilst the other 22 were negative. There were four other examinations with negative results.

## TUBERCULOSIS:

Each case of tuberculosis is visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor of the Lancashire County Council as soon as possible after receipt of notification. Where desirable, Sanatorium or Hospital treatment is arranged after consultation between the Chest Physician and the Medical Practitioner concerned.

At the beginning of the year, there were 60 recorded cases of tuberculosis, 3 cases were added and 10 cases taken off, leaving a total of 53 cases at the end of the year.

The examination of sputum for the presence of tubercle bacilli is carried out at the Blackburn Royal Infirmary. Of 14 such specimens examined during 1961, all were negative.

In no instances has there been any wilful neglect or refusal to notify. The notification of tuberculosis in this district being satisfactory.

There does not appear to be any excessive incidence of, or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.

It has not been necessary to take action during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under the Public Health Acts relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

## DISINFECTION:

Room fumigation for diseases other than tuberculosis and smallpox is no longer recommended. Experience has shown that thorough cleansing with soap, water and disinfectant together with efficient ventilation of the rooms is adequate. It was not found necessary to carry out any room fumigations during the year.

Infection, in the cases of diseases like scarlet fever and diphtheria is nearly always due to personal contact or to the infection of food and drink.



Table VII gives the age of the cases of tuberculosis notified and the deaths from the disease during 1961.

TABLE VII

## TUBERCULOSIS

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1961

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
<u>Years</u>								
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and up- wards	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2		—	—	—	—	—	—

N.B. Primary notifications only included in the above table



R E P O R T

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

## Borough of Haslingden

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

August 1962.

I have the honour to submit for your consideration, my fifteenth Annual Report on the environmental conditions in the area and the progress recorded in 1961.

During the year, progress was made on the Council's Ten Year Clearance Programme (1956-65). Twenty-eight houses included either in Compulsory Purchase Orders or Clearance Orders were demolished, as were four houses dealt with under demolition orders. In addition one house was closed under the Housing Act. Ten families, comprising 23 people from Clearance Schemes were rehoused by the Council.

The work of survey and inspection of a large number of old houses in the town centre, and a smaller number at a site some distance away, proceeded during the year.

The Council completed the erection of the 23 old persons bungalows and a warden's house on the Greenfield site. Thirty-eight houses were built on private estates during the year. The development of the Wilkinson Street area by the Council is contemplated, but at the end of the year demolitions were not completed.

A report was called for by the Health Committee, in January, on the Clean Air Act with special reference to its application to Haslingden. This was prepared and presented to the Committee in February. The Health Committee gave very serious consideration to the matters raised, asked for a copy of the report to be furnished to each Member of the Council, and forwarded the matter to the General Purposes Committee for further consideration. The report dealt with the powers of local authorities; dark smoke and industry; "black areas"; "smoke control areas"; the serious effects of smoke on human beings, with statistical evidence; steps already taken in Haslingden with regard to industry and dwelling houses; measurement of atmospheric pollution; costings with regard to smoke control areas and a map showing the "black areas" in East Lancashire and their physical relationship to Haslingden (Haslingden is not classified as a "black area").

During the year the quantity of sulphur dioxide and smoke pollution in the air was measured on the volumetric smoke and sulphur dioxide recorder installed at the Health Office. This instrument is now part of the national scheme of air pollution measurement co-ordinated by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Work continued throughout the year on the supervision of, and where necessary the enforcement of, the improvement of food hygiene in premises such as canteens; cafes; shops and similar premises. A number of improvements have again been recorded - one cannot stress too highly the need for first class equipment and modern hygienic methods in the "back rooms" of our canteens, shops and bakehouses. We have very real co-operation from food traders and every assistance is given when inspections are made.

A growing problem of some importance is the supervision of the housing arrangements of some of our Commonwealth people who have come to East Lancashire to work in the factories. The number in Haslingden has grown until between 1 and 2% of the population comes under this heading. Difficulties of obtaining houses leads to overcrowding, so that continuous efforts have to be made to prevent conditions dangerous to health arising or continuing. In these circumstances, administration of the Public Health Acts, where language problems also exist, is extremely difficult, but one must pay tribute to the unfailing good humour and courtesy of our visitors.

Other matters are dealt with in the body of the report, all of which are of importance to the health of the residents of the town. These include refuse collection and disposal, which continue to maintain the weekly service commenced in 1959, water supplies, milk supply, sanitary accommodation, housing repairs, rodent control and other services.

I have to report, with very deep regret, the loss of a highly respected colleague, Mr. H. Camm, who for over 11 years, was the Chief Clerk in the Health Department. He died in September 1961.

My appreciation and thanks are due to all Members and Officials of the Council for their interest, encouragement and valuable assistance, and particularly to the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Members of the Health Committee. My grateful thanks are also due to an efficient and loyal staff for their ungrudging service throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. DAWSON

Chief Public Health Inspector.

SECTION DENVIRONMENTAL CIRCUMSTANCESWATER:

The water supply of Haslingden is obtained mainly from the Irwell Valley Water Board, with a small number of houses in the Rising Bridge/Stonefold area being supplied by the Accrington & District Water Board, and the remainder - some 267 houses and farms, by springs and wells. Approximately 5,259 houses are supplied by the two Water Boards. The percentage of houses supplied from private sources such as springs and wells is approximately 4.7. In all cases the water supply by the two Water Boards is direct to taps in the consumers houses, neither of the Boards deliver water by stand pipes.

Sixty percent of the houses in the Borough are now fitted with baths. Extensions of 761 yards to the existing mains of the Irwell Valley Water Board were laid during the year. The water supplied in this area is treated with lime for plumbo-solvency.

The water undertakers made 44 bacteriological and 9 chemical examinations of raw water before treatment. In all cases treatment was necessary before going into supply.

Eighty-eight bacteriological and 18 chemical examinations were made of water going into supply. These were satisfactory.

The Health Department took 54 samples of water for bacteriological examination. Fifteen samples taken direct from the mains were all satisfactory. Of 39 samples taken from other sources, nineteen were unsatisfactory. Two chemical samples were taken from private supplies, one of which was unsatisfactory.

DRAINS AND SEWERAGE:

The sewage disposal works are under the control of a Joint Board and deal with the sewage of the three Rossendale Valley Towns - Haslingden, Rawtenstall and Bacup. The plant is situated at the lowest point in the area, and the method of treatment is precipitation and filtration, with outfall into the River Irwell. A major improvement scheme, the provision of a sludge digestion plant and drying beds, was completed during 1960.

There are still a number of houses not connected to public sewers, but these are mostly in outlying districts and farms.



SANITARY ACCOMMODATION:

The figures below show the closet accommodation of the Borough at the end of the year.

1. Number of pail closets .. .. .	123
2. Number of waste water closets . . . . .	1821
3. Number of fresh water closets . . . . .	3673
4. Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens) .. ..	6
5. Number of movable ashbins .. .. .	5592

There are still one hundred and twenty three pail closets in existence, mostly situated on the outskirts of the town, mainly remote from sewerage and mains water facilities.

Table VIII shows the particulars of conversions during 1961.

TABLE VIII  
C O N V E R S I O N S

No. of pail closets to fresh water closets .. .. .	5
No. of waste water closets to fresh water closets .. ..	117
No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles . . . . .	Nil

PUBLIC CLEANSING:

The vehicles used for public cleansing are as follows:- Two vehicles used entirely on collection of household refuse. One vehicle is used for the collection of nightsoil (in a special tank fitted to the wagon for that purpose) and for the collection of trade refuse, salvage, and cover etc.

Household refuse is now collected weekly and nightsoil also is collected weekly. All household refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping at the South Shore Tip. Refuse disposal has now been carried on at South Shore since 1954 as part of a scheme to create a large playing field in that area. Nightsoil is discharged to the sewers by means of a special nightsoil shute.



The weekly collection of household refuse was put into full operation in April 1959 and has been working for a long enough period to allow a review of the position.

Except immediately following holidays, and in periods of very bad weather, the weekly service has been maintained, despite the very real difficulty in obtaining labour.

The number of collections of household refuse per house, varies between 47 and 50 per annum - a very considerable increase on the average of 26 to 30 prior to 1959.

The refuse collection wagons have dealt with the following materials during the year:-

	<u>Loads</u>
Ashbin refuse .. .. .	2160
Nightsoil .. .. .	107
Trade refuse and cover .. .. .	387
	<u>2654</u>

The following shows particulars of the materials dealt with on the South Shore Tip:-

	<u>Loads</u>
Loads tipped by refuse wagons, including cover .. .	2547
Sweepings from Borough Surveyor's Department .. .	1123
Loads tipped by private traders .. .. .	507
	<u>4177</u>

SALVAGE: Salvage collected and sold as follows:-

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.
Paper, cardboard, etc. .. .. .	56	18	0
Scrap tins, metal, rags, etc. from Tip .. .	15	17	3
	<u>72</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>3</u>

Gross Value £421 16s 0d.



In Table X are given particulars of:

- (a) Notices served and complied with
- (b) Defects and nuisances found and remedied.

TABLE X

(a) NOTICES	Served	Complied with
Formal notices .. .. .	3	2
Informal notices . . . . .	79	74
(b) NUISANCES AND DEFECTS	Discovered	Abated
<u>Dwelling-houses:</u>		
Dampness .. .. .	18	18
Defective ashbins and pails .. .	299	295
Defective fresh and waste water closets and drains .. .. .	23	23
Chimneys, roofs and other housing repairs .. .. .	60	46

## CLEAN AIR ACT:

About fifty visits and inspections have been made to factories with regard to the efficient working of boiler plants. One new oil fired boiler; one new coal fired boiler, and one new incinerator for the smokeless destruction of waste materials, were installed. In all three cases notification was given under Section 3 (3) of the Clean Air Act 1956. At another factory, one tube of a Lancashire Boiler was fitted with a modern automatic underfeed screw type coal feed. The electrification of the factory left only space heating requirements to be dealt with by the boiler. There is still a considerable amount of work to be done with regard to industrial smoke and continued attention will be given to this important section of the public health service.

It is however, generally agreed that domestic smoke causes more pollution than factory smoke, even in our industrial towns. The Health Committee, when considering the question of smoke pollution in the Borough at its January meeting, called for a comprehensive report on the Clean Air Act 1956, with special reference to its application to Haslingden. This was presented to the Health Committee in February, given further consideration at the March meeting and later forwarded to the General Purposes Committee of the Council.

The report set out the provisions of the Act in general and briefly summarised the local authority's powers. The local authority can take steps to diminish industrial and commercial smoke and to prohibit smoke from dwelling houses.

"Black areas" were defined as districts where the Minister of Housing & Local Government had asked for a programme of smoke control areas to be submitted to him and after approval, put into operation. The Minister will accept for consideration smoke control areas from local authorities outside the black areas, if such are submitted to him. Haslingden is not included in areas so far declared "black" by the Ministry.

The Acts & Orders prescribe limits of dark smoke which can be emitted from factories without breach of the law and, further, give industry a period of grace where new equipment is essential to smoke control.

Figures are given in the report to support the statement that smoke pollution is injurious to health. The scientific evidence makes it clear that there is a definite association between smoke pollution and bronchitis and other respiratory disease. Bronchitis death rate comparisons - England & Wales 640 (per million per annum); Scotland 529;



Northern Ireland 352; Ireland (Eire) 320; Belguim 233; Holland 127; Western Germany 139; France 55; Switzerland 65; Scandinavia 33 to 50. Not all the excess can necessarily be attributed to smoke pollution, for example, climate or housing conditions play a part, but in general it is the industrial towns liable to heavy pollution that have the highest death rates. In addition, smoke causes damage to the fabric of buildings, causes loss of agricultural efficiency and direct loss such as laundry, domestic cleaning and painting of buildings. There is an overwhelming case for Clean Air throughout the country.

The report sets out considerable progress made in Haslingden with regard to new smoke reducing equipment provided in several factories and, in addition, improvement of methods. Also, the adoption by the Council of the Clean Air Act Byelaws under Section 24, which require all new houses to be fitted with fireplaces suitable for burning smokeless fuels, has resulted in some 600 new houses being so fitted and ensures that all new ones in the future will have to comply with the Byelaw.

The report describes the volumetric smoke stain and sulphur dioxide instrument which has given a daily record of pollution since early 1960. This is operated within the scheme controlled by the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research and should be of considerable value when the Council deal with smoke control areas.

An appendix in the report mentioned above, gives costings of smoke control areas as estimated in a selection of comparable towns in East Lancashire. A map showed the "black" areas in East Lancashire and their relationship to Haslingden.

#### SWIMMING BATHS:

The Corporation Swimming Baths provide one plunge bath, eight slipper baths with facilities for medicinal baths.

The water in the plunge bath is treated by filtration, chlorination and aeration, and is chemically treated by sulphate of alumina and soda. The water is tested daily for pH value, for residual chlorine and for temperature. The pool capacity is approximately 76,000 gallons and there is complete turnover of the water each  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

#### SCHOOLS:

All eight schools are supplied with towns water from the mains; All have fresh water closets and all have dustbins for refuse collection.



ERADICATION OF INSECT PESTS:

There were no cases of bed bugs to be dealt with during the year. Advice was given and insecticide provided in connection with treatment for other insect pests at dwelling houses.

RODENT CONTROL:

Over 100 premises were dealt with for rodent infestation during the year. These were all of minor character, but prompt action often prevents a more serious infestation. Two notices to cause premises to be made rat-proof were complied with.

Over 150 visits of inspection were made to private premises with regard to infestations in addition to many routine inspections for the presence of rodents.

SHOPS AND OFFICES:

Fifteen routine visits and inspections were made during 1961 of shops in the district. It was not found necessary to serve any notices for infringements with regard to ventilation, sanitary conveniences etc.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES:

There are no registered Common Lodging Houses within the Borough, the last on the register being closed in 1959.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951:

There are no premises in the town where rag flock is manufactured and so far as is known none is being sold or used.

CAMP SITES:

There have been no licences issued by the Local Authority, and no areas are used for camping purposes. One enquiry for a site was made and the local authority's requirements made known to the applicant. At the end of the year no formal application had been received.

SECTION E

## H O U S I N G

NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR:

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Flats</u>
(a) By the local authority .. .. .	24	-
(b) By other local authorities .. .. .	-	-
(c) By other bodies or persons .. .. .	33	-

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES:

Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .	382
Number of inspections made for the above purpose .. .. .	690
Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit (at end of year) .. .	212
Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit . .. . .	44

CLEARANCE AREAS:

Number of dwelling houses demolished during year:-

(a) Unfit houses .. .. .	27
(b) Other houses .. .. .	1

Number of persons displaced .. .. .	17
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<u>HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS:</u>		<u>Houses</u>	<u>Persons Displaced</u>
Houses demolished or closed during year: Housing Act 1957			
Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure Section 17(1) Housing Act 1957 .. .. .	4	2	
Local Authority owned houses demolished (M.O.H. Certificate) . . . . .	-	-	
Unfit houses closed: Under Sections 16(4), 17(1), 35(1) Housing Act 1957 ..	1	2	
<u>REPAIRS DURING YEAR:</u>			<u>No. of Houses</u>
Number of houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts .. .. .		44	
Houses in which defects were remedied under the Public Health Acts after service of formal notice:			
(a) By owners .. .. .	2		
(b) By local authority in default of owner .. .. .	Nil		
Houses in which defects were remedied under the Housing Act 1936 (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) after service of formal notice:			
(a) By owners .. .. .	Nil		
(b) By local authority in default of owner .. .. .	Nil		
Housing Repairs and Rents Acts 1954:			
Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) . . . . .		Nil	
<u>UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT 1957):</u>			
Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation . . . . .		Nil	
Number of separate dwellings contained in above . . . . .		Nil	
Number of houses licensed for temporary accommodation .. .. .		Nil	

TABLE XI

## HOUSING ACTS - IMPROVEMENT GRANTS ETC.

Action during year	No. of Schemes	No. of dwelling houses affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to Local Authority .. .. .	25	25
(b) Approved by Local Authority .. .. .	25	25
(c) Work Completed .. .. .	17	17
(d) Submitted by Local Authority to Ministry .	Nil	Nil
(e) Additional Separate dwellings included in (c) above .. .. .	None	
HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT 1959 "STANDARD GRANTS"		No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
Applications submitted to local authority . .. .		106
Applications approved by local authority .. .. .		104
Work completed .. .. .		101
Approximately 10% of the houses improved were tenanted houses, the rest being owner-occupied houses.		

RENT ACT 1957:

No Certificates of Disrepair issued during the year. No applications were received.



## HOUSING CONDITIONS - GENERAL:

The scheme of clearance approved by the Ministry and the Council in 1956, envisaged 382 houses being dealt with in 10 years at the rate of 40 per annum. Last year, the Council, by resolution, added a further 14 houses to the scheme. From 1956 to 1961 (inclusive) 209 houses have been dealt with by Compulsory Purchase Order, Clearance Order or other housing procedure.

No Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders were made in 1961. During the year, 32 unfit houses were demolished.

## CONSTRUCTION OF NEW COUNCIL HOUSES:

The position with regard to the construction of new Council Houses at the end of the year was as follows:-

Scheme No. 22 - 23 aged peoples bungalows and 1 Warden's House at Greenfield were completed during the year.

Scheme No. 23 - 64 maisonnettes and flats are contemplated at the Top of Town area (to be built on the site of the Wilkinson Street C.P.O.)

At the end of the year there were 468 applicants for Council Houses. This is an increase of 98 on last year's figure of 370. Whilst new house construction is mainly confined to meeting the needs of clearance schemes and for the housing of aged people, there would seem no likelihood of a reduction in the figure in the near future.

The average number of persons per house (2.60) does not indicate any extent of overcrowding in the district.



SECTION F

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK:

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order 1958 made it a statutory requirement to sell only milk which is specially designated (such as tuberculin tested, pasteurised and sterilised) and this must be sold only in bottles properly marked to show the designation.

Particulars of the bacteriological and biological examinations during 1961 are given in Table XII .

TABLE XII

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK DURING 1961

Particulars of Examination	No. of Samples				
	Total	Nega- tive	Posi- tive	Satis- factory	Not Satis- factory
Biological for Tuberculosis ..	9	9	-	-	-
Methylene Blue . . . . .	11	-	-	11	-
Phosphatase .. . . .	1	-	-	1	-
Brucella Abortus (Biological) .	4	4	-	-	-

EXAMINATION OF MILK SUPPLIES:

Milk samples are submitted for examination for tubercle bacilli; also for cleanliness as shown by the time taken to decolourise Methylene Blue. All samples examined for tubercle bacilli were found to be free from such infection and all the samples subjected to the Methylene Blue test, were satisfactory. Four samples submitted for examination for Brucella abortus proved negative. One sample of pasteurised milk was submitted and this satisfied the Phosphatase and Methylene Blue tests. All producers of milk, where samples were taken by this Department, were notified by letter of the results of the tests.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOOD:

Frequent inspections are made at retailers shops (including butchers' shops) where foodstuffs are stored, exposed for sale, or in course of preparation for sale.

FOOD CONDEMNED:

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption in 1961 and dealt with as directed by statute.

Tinned meat	..	..	..	..	..	90 lbs.
Bacon	..	..	..	..	..	33 lbs.
Other foods	..	..	..	..	..	73 lbs.

FOOD POISONING:

One case of food poisoning caused by salmonella typhi murium was reported. The case was diagnosed and treated in hospital. An investigation was made, but the cause was not found. No further cases occurred amongst relatives or friends of the patient.

FOOD PREMISES - FOOD HYGIENE:

Many inspections were made at food shops of all types, the kitchens of factory and school canteens and other food preparing places, under the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations. In fourteen instances, official notification was given to the occupier or owner to carry out improvements, ranging from schemes of improvement in four instances, to compliance with the cleanliness standards of the Regulations in others.

There are 27 bakehouses on the register, many of which are quite small family businesses. There is one basement bakehouse which has a certificate of suitability as required by the Factories Act.

The standard of hygiene and equipment has improved considerably in the last few years, as a result of the enforcement of the Food Hygiene Regulations by this Department.

The following table gives the type and number of food premises registered under the Food & Drugs Act 1955 or other Acts.

TABLE XIII

Type of Business	Legislation under which the registration effected	Number Registered at end of year	No. of Inspections of Registered Premises During Year
Ice-Cream .. .. .	Food & Drugs Act	62	6
Butchers .. .. .	" " "	12	164
Bakers & Cookshops .. ..	" " "	32	99
Fried Fish Shops .. ..	" " "	17	30
Fish, Fruit & Vegetables ..	" " "	10	153
Meat & Meat Products . . .	" " "	6	15

In addition, forty-two visits were made to School and Factory Canteens.

#### ADULTERATION OF FOOD: CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION:

The administration of Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and regulations governing the adulteration of food, are under the control of the Lancashire County Council and their officers take samples in the district. The bacteriological examination of foodstuffs is dealt with by the Borough Council and samples are submitted for such examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

## APPENDIX

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1961 FOR THE  
B O R O U G H   O F   H A S L I N G D E N  
IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASHIRE

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1959

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration  
of the Factories Act 1937



# PART I OF THE ACT

## 1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. .. .	43	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	89	46	2	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority* (excluding out-workers' premises) . . .	-	-	-	-
TOTAL . . . . .	132	46	2	-

\* i.e. Electrical Station (Section 103(1) Institutions (Sections 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108)

2 - CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) .. .. .	5	5	-	-	-
TOTAL: .. .. .	5	5	-	-	-

PART XIII OF THE ACT - Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	SECTION 110			SECTION 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel - Making etc. ..	8	-	-	-	-	-
Textile Weaving . . . . .	15	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL: . . . . .	23	-	-	-	-	-







